East-West Rail Corridor

629. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Japanese Prime Minister, a Japanese proposal to build a $ 5 billion east west rail corridor between Delhi and Mumbai and Delhi and Howrah to promote India's infrastructure was discussed;

(b) if so, how the corridor would be operated and how the cost would be shared; and

(c) the details of the decision taken and the steps being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the recent visit of Japanese Prime Minister in April 2005, both India and Japan confirmed their intention to examine the feasibility of proposals for dedicated multi-model high axle load freight corridors with computerized train control system on Mumbai-Delhi and Delhi-Howrah routes utilizing the Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) Scheme with inputs of Japanese technology and expertise. Ministry of Railways as a follow up has assigned a detailed feasibility study to M/s RITES, a public sector enterprise under this ministry.

New Harsood Railway Station

† 630. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Railway Station at Chhanera is proposed to be named as 'New Harsood' by Madhya Pradesh Government after the old Harsood station submerged under water;

(b) the action taken by the Government, so far, in this regard; and

(c) by when the procedure of naming the Chhanera Station as New Harsood would be completed?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.